The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY JUNE 11, 1936

We Had Almost Forgotten !

We have to thank our contemporary for the reminder in its yesterday's issue of "the large number of members who spoke on the address" in reply to the Throne Speech at the last legislative session. Our contemporary is in error, as usual, on this point. Premier CAMPBELL was the last speaker in the Draft Address debate. But in the Budget debate he was followed by no fewer than fifteen Liberal members, two of whom undertook to express very decided opinions on the proposed Sales Tax scheme as enunciated in the Premier's earlier speech. We had almost forgotten these gentlemen's remarks, which would have been too bad indeed. Pending evidence to the contrary, we must assume that they voiced public opinion, at least so far as their own constituents were concerned. It is with pleasure, therefore—at our contemporary's suggestion—that we add their contribution to the choice anthology of Liberal quotations which appeared in these columns yesterday.

Mr. JOHN MUSTARD, Third District of Kings, said he "viewed with ANXIETY the suggestion that the B. N. A. Act might be amended so as to enable the Provinces to impose additional indirect taxation. Whatever taxes are imposed gradually find their way to the producer of wealth, and the only two producing classes in this Province are farmers and fishermen." (*Patriot*, April 20.)

Hon. T. W. L. PROWSE, Fifth District of Queens, said "he was glad to see that there was NOTHING IN THE WAY OF INCREASED BUSINESS TAXES THIS YEAR. Increased taxes mean HIGHER PRICES, REDUCED CONSUMPTION OF GOODS, AND LOWER STANDARD OF LIVING TO THE PEOPLE." (*Patriot*, same issue).

Not one solitary voice was raised in the House to support the scheme as enunciated by Premier Campbell, Mr. MUSTARD viewed it with "anxiety", and Hon. Mr. PROWSE with anxiety tempered only by satisfaction that there would be "nothing in the way of increased business taxes this year."

Mr. PROWSE's statement is of particular significance. If the Sales Tax scheme had gone through—if it had not been killed in the Senate, and had received the sanction of the Imperial Parliament—it undoubtedly *would have gone into effect this year*. It would have been put into effect by Order-in-Council. Indeed, according to Rt. Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM, Deputy Government leader in the Senate, this was the purpose of rushing it through the Dominion Parliament without waiting for legislative sanction by the Provinces.

Is it not clear from Mr. Prowse's statement that he, like the general public, was misled by Premier Campbell's assurance that ample opportunity for discussion would be given before any decision was taken at Ottawa by way of providing amending machinery?

And if the matter HAD come before the Legislature, how many would have stood with Messrs. PROWSE and MUSTARD by their "no more taxation" pledges? How many apostates would the Premier have been able to muster on the opposite side? That is a moot question. Some, perhaps, like Senators MCARTHUR and SINCLAIR when the vote was taken at Ottawa, would have found it convenient to absent themselves. But speculation on this point is idle. The scheme has fallen through. And far be it from us to suggest that it be revived for the sake of adding further to the embarrassment of our local Liberal stalwarts when they again face the electors!

The Railway Issue

When the BENNETT Government came into office in 1930 it found that under the old MACKENZIE KING board of directors the exigencies of the Canadian National Railways had in about nine years added something like $900,000,000 to the public debt. Huge expenditures had been carried out in scores of constituencies all across the Dominion as a means of winning successive general elections. Extravagant luxury services had been introduced; political branch lines had been constructed; tens of millions of dollars had been poured out upon luxurious services at Vancouver, Saskatoon, and elsewhere. When the KING GOVERNMENT went out of office it had committed the public treasury to further drastic expenditures including the $50,000,000 terminal in Montreal. This waste had occurred under the original board of directors appointed by that administration. This was why the BENNETT Government got rid of the board of directors, substituting for the board a non-partisan committee of three trustees.

Closing their eyes to these outstanding facts, Railway Minister Mr. HOWE and his colleagues at Ottawa are trying to force through Parliament a return to the old discredited Liberal system of management. In carrying out this retrograde departure the Government proposes to break the pledge given by Parliament in 1933 that the trustees could not be removed except by a joint address of both Houses of Parliament. This repudiation of a contract entered into by the nation is regarded by competent authorities as a deliberate attempt of the Ministry to place the Government-owned road back in politics so that it can be used for political purposes.

Balbo At 40

ITALO BALBO has celebrated his 40th birthday in the North African colony to which he was banished by MUSSOLINI in 1933 and which he has governed for three years. His governorship, it is said, has been excellent. He was openly bitter at the time of his appointment, but apparently he accepted the discipline imposed upon himself as all good disciplinarians should.

The true story of BALBO's banishment from Italy will probably never be told so long as MUSSOLINI's regime continues. It occurred shortly after he had returned from the triumphant trans-Atlantic flight of the squadron of Italian aeroplanes which he headed and had been given a magnificent triumph.

Some said that BALBO's suddenly enhanced popularity incensed MUSSOLINI; others, that BALBO and MUSSOLINI had quarrelled over questions of high policy. In any case, off to Libya, and political obscurity, went the little, bearded air marshal of Italy, Il Duce becoming air marshal in his place. Rumors still persist, however, that BALBO is Il Duce's most likely successor.

One wonders, reflects the *Vancouver Province*, if Il Duce, placed in ITALO BALBO's position, would have done the same thing. One suspects he would have started printing socialist newspapers again!

Editorial Notes

A good deal of the time of the General Assembly was taken up with Island matters.

* * *

The new Conservative leader in Ontario is now joined by a new Conservative leader in Manitoba.

* * *

There is the prospects of a visit of the Ancient and Honourable Company of Artillery, Boston, here this year, under the command of an Islander, Mr. WILLIAM H. ELLIS. It is the most aristocratic regiment in the United States, consisting mostly of millionaires and otherwise elite. They are all qualified officers; and, indeed, equivalent to the King's Royal Company of Archers in Scotland.

* * *

Whatever be its economic defects, Premier ABERHART's certificate scheme has the merit of being able to provide work for those willing to shoulder a spade. Forty-thousand men would be given employment by the Alberta Government's proposed plan for highway construction, so states Mr. J. W. BEAUDRY, Social Credit M.L.A. for Beaver River. He expects the plan will be in operation soon.

* * *

Fifty years ago : "Charlottetown, June 6, 1886—The Prince Edward Island Legislature has been dissolved. Nominations are fixed for June 23 and the elections for the 30th. The battle will be short, sharp and decisive and victory undoubtedly again perch on the Conservative banner." It did—for Premier W. W. SULLIVAN went romping home, remaining at the helm till 1889 when, on his promotion to the bench, he was succeeded by the Hon. N. MACLEOD.

* * *

In old Ireland they seem to be getting back to the old days when politicians were railroaded into jail without much regard to their guilt or innocence. Twelve Irish Republicans were given one-year prison sentences by a military court on charges of having formed an "illegal association" and engaged in secret military drill. During their trial, carried out under the Public Safety Act, the accused refused to answer questions. Nine of the 12, whose identities were not revealed, were referred to throughout the proceedings by number.

* * *

The victory of Hon. Dr. TOLMIE in Victoria is remarkable for three reasons—first it maintains the unbroken record of Victoria as a Conservative seat since Confederation; second, in a time of political flux when practically no man knoweth whither the political wind bloweth, the combined old parties polled just double the votes cast for the new party; and third, a former Federal minister, who left Ottawa to assume a Provincial Premiership, has been able to return to his first political love, though merely as an opposition back bencher. Senator RHODES returned, but to high office.

* * *

M. EDOUARD HERRIOT, newly elected President of the French Chamber of Deputies, told the Deputies in his inaugural address that three major ideas should dominate the present legislative session : 1. Maintenance of the Republic; 2. Economic recovery; 3. Preservation of peace inside and outside the country. Answering critics of the parliamentary regime, Mr. HERRIOT quoted ROBESPIERRE, who during the most dangerous days of the French revolution, told the National Convention : "Democracy only exists when the state is actually the Fatherland of all the individuals who form part of it, and when it can count as many defenders as it has citizens." M. HERRIOT interpreted the recent elections as a desire on France's part for conciliation, "not as an expression of special sessions, but as an indication that there is still tolerance in France. The country plans to save itself by its free institutions, because it knows the price of risky ventures," he added.

* * *

Although only three Liberal Senators registered their votes against the B. N. A. amendments, the number of those actually opposed is legion. For instance, a former Liberal Minister of Justice in the LAURIER regime, Sir ALLEN B. AYELSWORTH declared it seemed to him tremendous perils were involved in the country amending the constitution. He questioned whether the use of the French language would be continued if the Dominion had the right to amend the British North America Act. Only 30 or 40 years ago, Sir ALLEN said, an agitation was led in Ontario, with meetings held everywhere, taking the stand if Canada were to remain British there should be only one flag, one language and one navy. "Some may say the Senate would prevent this," Sir ALLEN continued. But if some radicals started to get rid of the Senate the Upper House might not be on hand to hold an even keel and protect minority rights. "I cannot think why anyone should want such a change," he declared. So long as the Dominion and the provinces could unite in an address to the King where an amendment to the B. N. A. Act was considered advisable that was all that was needed.

Notes by the Way

The manner in which conditional liberty has been accorded (to criminals) will seem to many people at least disquieting. One wonders without being able to explain it how an incorrigible bandit, a public enemy like Ryan, was able to get the benefit of a release from punishment, and one also wonders uneasily whether the Minister of Justice has turned out into the world several men of Ryan's character. But it is to be hoped that as a result of the scandal which his death has caused the system which covers these parols will be studied and corrected. As far as Miss Macphail is concerned, it is greatly to be hoped that she will insist (upon prison reform) with less intemperance. The lesson which she and all Utopians with her have just received should convince her that, human nature being what it is, it is vain, dangerous and pernicious to pretend to correct the incorrigible by simple homeopathic treatment. —La Patrie (Montreal.)

Kentucky may in time become known as the pioneer "model prison" State, if plans approved by Federal and State officials are carried out successfully. A $14,000,000 10-year program is contemplated to provide for an entirely new approach to the whole vital problems of prisons and charitable institutions. The keystone of the project would be rehabilitation. Treatment of each prisoner would be prescribed with a view to "salvaging" the individual for society. The vast project encompasses plans to classify inmates as dangerous, less dangerous and tractable. Separate wards would be provided for each class and useful work found for those eligible. The plan, Kentucky officials claim, is a major step away from the existing "universities of crime." It will be interesting to see just how it works out.

"To be honest, to be kind—to earn a little and to spend a little less, to make upon the whole a family happier for his presence, to renounce when that shall be necessary and not to be embittered, to keep a few friends, but those without capitulation—above all, on the same grim conditions, to keep friends with himself—here is a task for all that a man has of fortitude and delicacy."—Robert Louis Stevenson.

It is useless to sentimentalize and all must face the fact that there are men and women so dangerous to society that their destruction is society's sole protection. Executions need not be disgusting spectacles. There are no public executions in Canada. The law and the press together can make executions less revolting by confining reports of them to a bald reference to the fact that they took place, with or without a brief resume of the crime—usually the latter has been sufficiently ventilated during the trial. Capital punishment is a thing all deplore, but it is not to be abolished without deep thought, and many who have already given this are reluctantly convinced that it is still a regrettable necessity.—St. John's Telegraph.

The danger of wading, swimming or diving in water of unknown depth has been tragically emphasized in Alberta during the current heat wave. Four boys are dead because they did not know just how deep the water was. A youth dove of a bridge spanning a branch of the Bow River in Calgary and broke his neck. He had not made sure that the water was deep enough for diving. Three boys in other parts of the province were wading in flooded creeks. Each stepped into deep holes they did not know were there and were drowned. Even expert swimmers do not care to plunge into streams of whose currents and depths they know nothing. Make sure you know what you are going to run into before you step into a lake or stream, especially if the latter is at high water.—Edmonton Journal.

One of the most popular men of the last century was Lord Hartington, who nourished two ambitions, to become Prime Minister and to win the Derby, and who placed the second honour above the first. The most stable Minister of the preceding century, Sir Robert Walpole, opened the letters he received from a gamekeeper before he read his State papers. Lord Rosebery won the Derby three times, twice whilst he was Prime Minister. Lord Balfour was a great tennis player, and in the history of his country he is remembered, not so much as the negotiator of the Treaty of Versailles, but as the man who made the Scottish game of golf the fashion in England. The type of man who pleases the masses and wins their confidence is not the same in the two countries. In France he must be very serious. "If I had a son," Briand once said, "and if he wanted to go in for a political career in France, this is the advice that I should give him: 'Conceal your own fancies, my boy; hide your high spirits, suppress your gaiety. Be sombre, sad and tedious. If you want to amuse yourself, at least don't do it in public.'"—The Fortnightly, London.

Napoleon, when the qualifications of one of his generals were submitted to him, used to reply: "But is he lucky?" Mr. Baldwin is essentially a lucky politician. Political parties do not easily dispense with such a man. Above all, men realize that he means more abroad than any man who might take his place. I remember Mr. Eden telling me once that there was no surer way of convincing French statesmen that the British Government was opposed to a certain course of action than to say that Mr. Baldwin would not stand for it. He has seldom extended his travels beyond Aix-les-Bains and has therefore all the fascination of a legendary figure. To Germany, too, he represents the solid, sturdy Englishman, the embodiment of all our traditions of independence and age-long security. They realize there that in him is represented all that is fine and most formidable in the English character. He remains the great pillar of decency and democracy in a reeling world. His countrymen would do well to keep him as long as he feels able to do them service.—London Spectator

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

THE MIXED DIET IS THE LOGICAL DIET FOR MAN

One of the interesting exhibits at the Chicago Century of Progress celebration was that showing the length of the digestive tract—from mouth right down to lower end of the large intestine from whence the wastes (feces) leave the body.

One exhibit was of the cow, the grass eating animal, another of the dog, the meat-eating animal, and the third of man who eats meat, grasses and vegetables.

It was found that the length of the intestine where digestion is carried on was much longer (in proportion to the length of the animal) where grasses were eaten (cows) than where meat alone (dogs), or meat and vegetables (men) were eaten. The length of the intestine in the cow was about 8 to 10 times its own length, that of man 5 times, and that of the dog 3 times.

The natural conclusion to come to from this knowledge is that the cow needs a long intestine to give time to absorb nourishment, and that dogs need only a short intestine as meat is quickly absorbed into the blood.

Thus as man has a length of intestine part way between cows and dogs he should therefore eat both meat and vegetables.

Now there may be conditions in which meat should not be used—kidney or bloodvessel ailments—but the idea that meat is dangerous and that man should live on fruit and vegetables alone is a mistake.

Of course there are individuals who have been able to prove that the meat diet alone can keep them in perfect health and others who have been able to prove that vegetables and fruit alone gives them their excellent health and energy. The point to remember however is that meat contains much fat, and that many of the vegetarians eat milk, cheese and possibly eggs which are "animal" foods.

Now it is possible that those who can live on meat alone, or on fruit and vegetables alone, are "different" from the rest of us in build, liking for certain foods and otherwise. However we might all very well follow the advice of Prof. McCollum, Johns Hopkins, who says that the ordinary diet of meat and potatoes to which either some raw fruit or vegetable is added daily, is the ideal diet.

Sir John A. Helped To Name A Cardinal

(Fred Williams in the Ottawa Journal)

In 1886, fifty years ago, it was announced in Quebec newspapers that the Right Reverend Elzear Alexandre Taschereau, Archbishop of Quebec, had been created a Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII.

It cannot be presumed that the choice of His Holiness could be influenced by the suggestion of a Canadian who was not only Prime Minister of the Dominion but also most of his life a member of the Orange Order; yet it was a little peculair that almost on the heels of the official announcement from Rome there were hints by the Conservative French press correspondent at Ottawa that Sir John A. Macdonald had been responsible for the signal honor being conferred upon the Canadian prelate.

It was not, however, until long after Sir John's death that it became certain that he had some part in the matter. In a letter written to Archbishop Taschereau on March 10, 1886, Sir John said:

"It affords me infinite gratification to feel that in my humble way I have had something to do with calling the attention of the Vatican to the subject. When I spoke to the Marquess of Salisbury, then Prime Minister, he entered warmly into the proposal and advised me to see Cardinal Manning, with whom I had the honor of a previous acquaintance. He told me that through the Duke of Norfolk, the leader of the English Catholics, he would move Cardinal Howard who was then at Rome, to press the claims of the diocese of Quebec and to your grace as the incumbent of that historic diocese, to the position of cardinal.

Sir John was pretty astute! The French-Canadians were at that time at the height of the agitation over the execution of Louis Reil and it could do no harm to let it be known that the leader of the Conservative party had had influence at the Vatican.

I have not the record now, but I have a recollection of how Sir John's part was played up by the clerical press in Quebec and Monreal. It was good politics, but it is just as well that Sir John's letter did not become public in Ontario until after he had passed to a place where the Orange Order could not protest against one of its members nominating a member of the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church!

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

PARKS AND PUBLIC WELFARE

Sir,—

"Every day the papers say,
There's a robbery in the park;
So I sit all night at the Y.M.C.A.
Singing just like a lark,
There's no place like home,
But I cannot go home in the dark."

Pro Bono Publico must have been thinking of this old song when he wrote his letter on the national park or rather against it; for he considers it a waste of money, pure and simple, to spend $40,000 on such a park, and he darkly hints that it might become a mere playground for tourists—or something worse.

And yet we cannot entirely quarrel with Pro Bono, for he plainly has his mind intent on another excellent idea, namely, the improvement of our country school grounds. And it is surely a shame that in a country where land sells for $30 per acre, so few districts can afford even one acre for a playground for boys and girls. But does not Pro Bono know that the persons whom he ridicules as park faddists are the very ones that he could count on for support in a movement to supply safer and better school grounds?

It is truly interesting to observe the different senses of value that exists in different minds. One writer, for instance, sees no advantage whatever in a National Park, but he sees urgent need of more protection for human life; as though the two things did not go naturally together. Another sees some probable advantage in such a park, but he would nevertheless much rather see the amount required to establish it, spent on hard-surfaced roads. That is, two miles of hard concrete road looks better to him than any park whatever that he can imagine on P. E. Island. Park lovers (we mean those people who love parks) would on the other hand, prefer to travel over decent clay roads, if these led them to a nice park, rather than to travel over scores of miles of concrete road and still find no fresh green spot of earth where they could rest to their heart's content. Pro Bono says our Island is full of such places, namely, the privately-owned woodlands of our farmers, and that their good city friends are welcome to a share of these. I am afraid that Pro Bono, like the over-polite Persian host who assures his guest that he is welcome to each and every thing in his house, would be utterly astonished if the inhabitants of the City took him at his word. No, no, Pro Bono, farmers today do not want city folks to be intruding on their privately-owned woodlands, nor yet on their privately-owned shorelands; and hence, there is a crying demand today for public spaces of woodland and shoreland, so that respectable, health-seeking citizens, and innocent, pleasure seekers from town and country may find free and ready access to these, none daring to make them afraid.

I am not, however, a tourist enthusiast, and think it perfectly silly that people could ever hope or imagine that this country could rival Florida and Switzerland as a tourist resort. A mere school-boy can see that nature well designed these last two countries for tourist trade, one on account of its long summers and balmy winters, and perpetually warm ocean waters for bathing; and the other on account of its grand, unconquerable, inviolable mountains, unsuited for anything except as objects of admiration and health resorts. But nature has made P. E. Island, every inch of it, too fertile to be eventually a mere playground, and it is now happily, we think, almost every inch of it, a well-tilled garden, and justly termed the "Garden of the Gulf." This is our heritage, and we should not lightly hand it over to all sorts of idle sports from all over the continent, basely tempted to do so by the almighty dollar; in this I am heart and soul with Pro Bono Publico. But nevertheless, there is no reason why the Island should not cater to a certain amount and a certain quality of tourist trade; and the quality should be the very best. And we have learned from experience that it is the very best quality who look for such accommodation as quiet parks and quiet, decent seaside resorts.

Pro Bono suggests the fear that the park might become a resort for all sorts of vice; and if the park should be designed on the Coney Island principle, we would share his misgivings. But natural parks positively do not attract criminals, as the records of crime will prove. For every crime that is committed in a park, one hundred are committed in the crowded haunts of men and women; and that there is something soothing, purifying and uplifting about forest and seashore, surely needs no labored argument.

Pro Bono Publico sees plainly enough the need of safe and pleasant playgrounds for little children: believe me, the big children need them also. Have I not watched them for twenty-five summers revelling in the innocent enjoyment of natural parks, especially in Stanley Park, Vancouver, which is perhaps the finest natural park on the Continent, containing as it does three or four miles of primeval forest, surrounded by mountains and bordering on the sea; surrounded also by one good automobile road, but religiously guarded against all intersections save footpaths that lead to open spaces within the park or right through to the opposite side, by some paths a mile distant. A day's visit to this park constitutes the chief pleasure of the year to thousands of people, not only from Vancouver, but also from New Westminster, 16 miles distant, and from towns twice as far away. Here are held every summer, the Sunday School picnics of dozens of city churches and countless societies. How well I remember, about twenty years ago, how one day as I sauntered through one of the thickly-wooded paths of the park I came to an open space where I discovered a fine-looking, jolly group of men, women and children who were holding a picnic. A glance at the pennants revealed the fact that they were the Prince Edward Island Club, and as naturally as a Free Mason would join the group were they of his own order, so I joined these and in a few moments was as much at home, and in as fine a family, as a man could possibly desire to be.

In regard to the cost of the park, let it be remembered that if $40,000 is spent on a park for Prince Edward Island, almost 100% of it goes directly to the people of the island. Compare this with $40,000 spent in constructing two miles of concrete road in which case perhaps 50% goes to foreign countries for material, and then you have only got an experiment, of doubtful value as compared to a really good gravelled road.

But we are not writing to knock hard-surfaced roads, but to boost for natural parks which we think ought to be in all three counties of our province, though we certainly think the Grand National Park ought to be in Queen's County, near Charlottetown, and between Charlottetown and Borden, on one of the main roads, as near to the salt water as possible and commanding a fine view of landscape. The least common multiple of these factors is the logical site to be chosen. But however, I for one greet with delight all other suggestions appearing from time to time on this and kindred subjects. Is it not as a light in darkness to find that even in this grossly materialistic age, there are still some men and women who are not insensible to "whatsoever things are pure and whatsoever things are lovely?" We cannot all have the National Park where we would like it. But if it is chosen logically and tastefully we will all rejoice in the accomplished fact of a thing of beauty for our province, and a spot where any Canadian could rest for a while and say with pride, "this is my own, my native land."

I am, Sir, etc.,
OBSERVER.

The Poets' Corner

A CONFESSION

Said I not so—that I would sin no more?
Witness my God, I did;
Yet I am run again upon the score,
My faults cannot be hid.

What shall I do? Make vows and break them still?
Twill be but labor lost;
My good cannot prevail against mine ill;
The business will be crossed.

"Oh, say not so! Thou canst not tell what strength
Thy God may give thee at the length
Renew the vows, and if thou keep the last,
Thy God will pardon all the past!
Vow while thou canst, while thou canst vow, thou mayst
Perhaps perform it when thou thinkest least.

. . . . . .

"Weep for thy broken vows, and vow again;
Vows made with tears cannot be still in vain."

Then, once again I vow to mend my ways:
Lord, say "Amen,"
And thine be all the praise.

—Author Unknown.

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